

CHAPTER 17 ASSESSMENTS

[Prior to 10/8/86, Commerce Commission[250]]

199—17.1(475A,476) Definition of “direct assessment.” The charge to a particular public utility for expenses incurred by the board and the consumer advocate for the purpose of determining rate matters to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of, or make appraisals of the property of, or to render any engineering or accounting services to any public utility; or to review the operations or annual reports of the public utility under Iowa Code section 476.31 or 476.32.

199—17.2(475A,476) Definition of “remainder assessment.” The charge to all public utilities for the annual expenses reasonably attributable to the performance of the board’s and the consumer advocate’s duties prescribed by Iowa Code chapter 476 and section 475A.2, after deducting the direct assessments.

199—17.3(475A,476) Definition of “overhead expenses.” All operating costs of the board and the consumer advocate excluding salaries to same shall constitute overhead expenses.

199—17.4(476) Notice of investigation and of intention to assess costs. The board shall notify any utility to be assessed of the board’s intention to assess the costs incurred in any matter for which direct assessment can be made.

199—17.5(476) Expenses to be included in direct assessments.

17.5(1) Salaries of board and the consumer advocate employees will be computed at an expertise level on an hourly rate obtained by dividing the individual’s merit class average annual salary, and related benefit costs borne by the state, by the appropriate number of standard working hours for the year. The time of all board and the consumer advocate employees engaged on the matter for which a direct assessment is to be made, whether on the property of the public utility, in the offices of the board, or elsewhere, including travel time, will be included. The maximum chargeable time per person shall not exceed the appropriate number of standard working hours for the year.

17.5(2) Travel expenses incurred in an investigation or in rendering services by board and the consumer advocate personnel or by others employed by the board or consumer advocate will be charged to the utility. Travel expenses include costs of transportation, lodging, meals and other normal expenses attributable to traveling.

17.5(3) Whenever the board or the consumer advocate finds it necessary to engage persons, facilities or equipment for consulting advice, particular projects or services arising out of investigations, and cost of special services, facilities, or equipment, shall be chargeable to the public utility under investigation.

17.5(4) Overhead expenses of the board and the consumer advocate which are reasonably attributable to activities of the board which can be directly assessed under Iowa Code section 476.10 will be charged to the utility.

The overhead expense factor used in direct billing overhead expenses will be recalculated and implemented with the July billing each year. The overhead expense factor will be determined using the following formula:

19XX Fiscal Year	19XX Approved Budget Fiscal
Overhead Expense	Year Expenditures
Factor	<hr style="width: 100%;"/> 19XX Approved Budget Fiscal Year Salaries

This overhead expense factor will become effective upon adoption of this rule.

199—17.6(476) Definition of “gross operating revenues derived from intrastate public utility operations.” All revenues from intrastate operations includable in the operating revenue accounts of the

prescribed uniform systems of accounts and operating revenues from the sale of heat; provided, however, that such revenues shall not include the following: (a) Uncollectible revenues; (b) Amounts included in the accounts for interdepartmental sales and rents.

199—17.7(476) Reporting of operating revenues. Every public utility shall file with the board on or before April 1 of each year a verified report, on forms prescribed by the board, showing its gross operating revenues derived from intrastate public utility operations during the preceding calendar year. Such revenues are to be reported on the accrual basis or the cash basis consistent with the annual report filed with the board.

199—17.8(475A,476) Compilation of assessment. The board shall ascertain and add to the direct assessment, certified expenses incurred by the consumer advocate directly chargeable to the public utility under Iowa Code section 475A.6. The revenues for the remainder assessment shall be compiled by the board and each utility assessed in proportion to its respective gross operating revenues during the last calendar year. However, utilities exempt from rate regulation shall not be assessed for remainder expenses incurred during review of rate-regulated public utilities under Iowa Code section 476.31 or 476.32. Such remainder expenses shall be assessed proportionally among only the rate-regulated public utilities. The bill or accompanying letter of transmittal to each utility shall indicate the assessable revenue for the utility, the rate at which the assessment was computed, and the assessment amount. Utilities not subject to rate regulation will be assessed at one-half the rate assessed those subject to such regulation.

199—17.9(476) Funding of Iowa energy center and global warming center. On July 1, 1991, and on or before July 1 of each year thereafter, each gas and electric utility shall remit to the utilities division of the department of commerce, a check made payable to the treasurer of state for one-tenth of one percent of the total gross operating revenue during the last calendar year derived from its intrastate public utility operations for the funding of the Iowa energy center and global warming center. This remittance shall not be represented on customers' bills as a separate item.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 475A.6, 476.2, 476.10 and 546.7.

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